The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in its legislative, executive and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Every addition to human knowledge is an addition to man power.—Horace Mann.

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NO COMPROMISE WITH LABOR INJUNCTION EVIL

The Court of Appeals of the State of New York suggests that fewer injunctions be issued in labor disputes and that criminal law be applied in many cases now handled by equity courts.

From the standpoint of logic, this is a sustainment of labor's opposition to the injunction process.

The labor injunction is either right or wrong. If it is right, why should the New York court warn against its indiscriminate use?

And why does the court express the belief that criminal law should be permitted to function in many cases now handled by injunction judges?

If an injunction judge has the right to set aside the operation of criminal law, why make exceptions? Why not continue that policy? Is the high court alarmed at the growing protests against usurping judges?

If the injunction judge can supersede criminal law when labor is alleged to be involved, why not apply it to undisputed criminal cases? Why not enjoin burglars and hold-up men?

Why should outlaws be given greater consideration than workers on strike to enforce better living conditions?

When an outlaw is arrested he is assumed to be innocent until the State proves him guilty. He is given every aid to prove his innocence, and no judge dare ignore the outlaw's constitutional guarantees.

When an attorney for an employer tells an injunction judge that a striker has violated his order not to do a thing that would be legal if no strike exists, the worker is ordered to appear before the court and convince his honor that he (the worker) should not be fined and jailed.

There is no assumption of innocence, as in the case of the outlaw. The worker is considered guilty. It is up to him—not his accuser—to prove his innocence. There is no trial by jury or other constitutional guarantees. All this is done, the worker is told, because his case comes under "equity."

This treatment of strikers is indefensible. The class bias is becoming so apparent, because of organized labor's repeated protests, that enthusiasm is waning for the wholesale issuance of these writs. Organized labor will not be satisfied with the New York court's suggestion. Liberty is unsafe as long as courts set aside constitutional rights and act as lawmaker, judge and executioner.

Unrestrained power, even when used with moderation, is as abhorrent as when unchecked. In either case the victim depends upon the mood of a judge, rather than upon constitutional guarantees.

Labor insists that the injunction process revert to its original status—that it be only used to protect property and when the plaintiff has no other remedy at law.

COMPANY "UNIONS" ARE DOOMED BRITISH VISITOR SEES THEIR END

London, England, June 11.—The end of company "unions" in the United States was predicted by Ramsey MacDonald, leader of the Labor party, in discussing his recent visit to America.

"Workshop management in industry," said Mr. MacDonald, "will pass under the control of the trade unions who themselves will determine the conditions of labor—and, very largely, the wages—and produce articles on a scale which will secure for them a world market. The whole movement is most interesting, but at this moment is in an embryonic stage.

"A curious kind of alert public spirit is manifesting itself among American employers. The rich classes in America are beginning to experience the profoundly unsatisfying results of mere wealth possession and I should not be at all surprised if in the next few years there were a specifically characteristic labor movement of a social and humanitarian kind in American industry. Its spirit will be a sort of man-to-man spirit."

Mr. MacDonald spoke appreciatively of the friendliness of American trade unionists. "When I was ill," he said, "telegrams and resolutions came in from labor organizations from California to New York, which was a gratifying proof of the solidarity between British and American workers."

THAT SACCO-VANZETTI CASE

The A. F. of L. stands on principle when it asks for judicial or executive relief for Sacco and Vanzetti.

The condemned men believe in a social theory that is shunned by organized labor, but this is not the issue. Neither is their innocence or guilt under discussion.

The Massachusetts law provides that the trial judge shall pass on pleas for a new trial. In other States appellate courts review such appeals.

Affidavits charge Judge Thayer, the trial judge, with expressing opinions hostile to the accused during and after the trial. He refused to grant a new trial and the State Supreme Court rules that he is acting under the law.

As the case now stands two men under sentence of death claim they have not had a fair trial and that a biased judge refuses to order a new trial because they are radicals.

Organized labor insists that the fundamentals of law should be rigidly applied in every case, regardless of the political or social views of the accused.

Labor Injunction Abuse Is Overplayed State High Court Warns: "Go Slow"

Albany, June 11.—New York Court of Appeals, the highest tribunal in this State, suggested to lower courts that fewer injunctions be issued and that this process be not used where redress can be had to criminal law.

This is a leaning toward organized labor's position that the injunction should not replace the law of the land.

The court's suggestion was made in a decision which annuls a New York anti-picketing injunction and upholds the right of strikers to picket in a case growing out of a strike designed to unionize waitresses employed in that city.

The Court of Appeals found that a minor trespass had been committed by officials of the union when the strike was called, and suggested that criminal law covers this offense. The remedy does not lie in the injunction process, said the court.

The union and employer disagreed as to whether there were members of the union employed, but the court indicated that even if the employer is correct this annulled no right that the unionists possess.

"The union," said Judge Andrews, who wrote the majority opinion, "may be as interested in the wages of those not members or in the conditions under which they work, as in its own members, because of the influence of one upon the other.

"Picketing without a strike is no more unlawful than a strike without picketing. Both are based on a lawful purpose. Resulting injury is incidental and must be endured."

LOW WAGES TO WOMEN AFFECT MALE WORKERS

Washington, June 11.—In a pamphlet issued by the United States Women's Bureau it is stated that wages should be based on occupation and not on sex or race.

"This is suggested from a well-founded conviction," the bureau states, "that low wages for women are a menace to the individual woman, to the family and to the community as a whole."

The pamphlet is entitled "Short Talks About Working Women." Several theories of low-wage employers are demolished. Women are reminded that in the absence of wage commissions or labor organizations, individual bargaining prevails.

"Compelled by necessity," it is stated, "a woman must work for whatever the employer will pay, and the phrase 'individual bargaining' becomes a myth instead of a reality.

Another myth is the claim that women merely work for "pin money" and are not a factor in industry.

Women's wages, the bureau says, are still based on the old theory that they have no family responsibilities as wage earners, with results disastrous to that life and health for the maintenance of which they are responsible.

"The lower wages for women in industrial occupations have a distinct influence on the wages of men. Any industrial group working more than the standards which prevails in industry will have the effect of lowering the wage standard of all employes."

Employers Must Pay Union's Costs When They Lose Injunction Fight

St. Louis, Mo., June 11.—A jury in Circuit Judge Calhoun's court has awarded an affiliate of the United Leather Workers' International Union $7,500 for attorney fees against leather manufacturers who filed bond of $10,000 when they secured an injunction several years ago against striking employes.

The injunction was issued by a Federal court on the ground that the employers' failure to fill their orders was an interference with interstate commerce. The United States Supreme Court ruled that leather goods is no part of interstate commerce until they are actually in transit.

President Bryan of the international and Attorney John P. Leahy surprised the manufacturers by suggesting to the local that suit for attorney fees be filed under English law and under the Clayton amendment to the Sherman Act.

Attorney Leahy pointed out that the Clayton Act provides that an injunction shall not be issued unless bonds are given to indemnify the parties wrongfully enjoined against costs and damages.

"The only damages which the defendants could suffer would be the money they had expended for attorney fees and for printing of briefs," said Mr. Leahy. "If the manufacturers' contention is correct, and we are not entitled to attorney's costs, the giving of the bond is a mockery."

Judge Calhoun was impressed with this reasoning and ruled accordingly.

President Bryan and Attorney Leahy expect the decision will be vigorously contested because of its far-reaching effect. If upheld it will check employers who rush into court, post a bond, secure an injunction, compel trade unionists to spend large sums of money on attorneys' fees, and then withdraw their bond.

The money that was used to successfully carry the injunction fight to the United States Supreme Court was raised by the international and the A. F. of L.

Fire Fighters Prove Union's Value; Gains Secured Is Efficiency Aid

Washington, June 11.—The International Association of Fire Fighters, affiliated to the A. F. of L., announces the most complete survey of fire department statistics that has ever been made in the United States and Canada. The survey covers salaries, working conditions, pensions, fire losses, number of persons protected by each firemen, fire protection cost per capita, loss per fire, value of property protected by each fireman and other features of interest to the fire prevention field.

In connection with salaries it is interesting to note that in 1913 average salaries for first-class firemen was $1,000 per year. The present average salary is $1,924, or an increase of 92 per cent. Hours of labor have been cut in half by the introduction of the two-platoon system in practically every city in the United States and Canada.

The International Association concentrated its efforts on salaries and the two-platoon system, but did not neglect needed reforms in pensions, civil service and fire prevention necessities.

Statistics on salaries emphasize the advantage of organization. In one group of the larger cities the average for organized firemen is $2,108 a year, and $100 less for unorganized. The study points out that in many unorganized cities the salaries were increased by civic officials to prevent organization. In most cases of this kind the fire fighters are cancelled like politicians and a large percentage of the increases must be contributed to campaign funds.

During the association's long campaign for the two-platoon system in place of the 24-hour day, the fire fighters' claim that efficiency would be increased was strenuously denied. The study shows that 390 fire department chiefs sustain the association and only 11 reply that the two-platoon system has not increased efficiency.

The association is having many calls for information pertaining to fire departments, and now has established headquarters for information on this subject.

TRICKY COMMUNISTS ARRESTED IN CHINA

Washington, June 11.—The Kuomintang (National) party of Canton, China, believed the solemn promises of Communists that they would uphold the principle of "China for the Chinese," rather than foment discord and revolution.

The party, now in control of Canton, have learned that a leopard cannot change its spots, and the Communists are jailed.

The latest report is contained in a Chinese news service, issued from Canton and just received at A. F. of L. headquarters.

The Communists are shown to have worked their old trick of "boring from within." The news service tells this story, so well known to American trade unionists:

"When the Communists were admitted into the Kuomintang party it was definitely stated that they were to lay aside their Communistic principles and render wholehearted support to the principles of the Kuomintang.

"To our great disappointment, however, the Communists have not hesitated to start their own peculiar activities, even to intriguing to destroy the Kuomintang party by promoting schisms within it. Wholesale abuses were heaped upon staunch supporters of the Kuomintang and denunciations were freely uttered against the principles and policies of the party. These actions have evidently been a base scheme to destroy the Kuomintang party and its aims to establish a Communistic regime."

The arrest of these dangerous characters, it is stated, is not intended to curtail the orderly agitation of laborers and peasants in the liberation movement.

HEALTH LAW ILLEGAL

Seattle, June 11.—A health ordinance passed by the city council has been declared illegal by Judges Findley and Fraker. The act regulated the hours of retail meat establishments. Unscrupulous dealers purchased meat unfit for consumption after health inspectors went home at 5 o'clock. To end this practice the shops were ordered closed at 6.

MEAT CUTTERS GAIN

Tacoma, Wash., June 11.—Organized meat cutters have signed an agreement with the Retail Butchers' Association, 90 days.

MANY MINERS KILLED BY FALLING ROOFS

Washington, June 11.—More than 1,200 coal and metal miners are annually killed by falling roofs and this constitutes one of the biggest problems in the mining industry of this country, says the United States Bureau of Mines.

The solution of this problem "is very largely a matter of enlisting the hearty and active cooperation of both the mine operator and the mine employe," the bureau says.

Organized mine workers suggest that the best check to fatalities would be props under these roofs. This is not done, as timbering costs money. When it is placed in the mines it is rarely removed because of expense. To save money the coal owner takes chances—as do the mine workers.

COMMUNISTS' STRIKE PROVES "FLIVVER"

New York, June 11.—The much-advertised Communists' general strike of fur workers is a frost. Less than 500 responded.

The Communists were ousted from the International Fur Workers' Union and the employers are recognizing the legitimate organization.

The Communist "leaders" staged the strike in an attempt to regain prestige.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Centralia, Wash., June 11.—Officers of the Washington State Federation of Labor have issued the call for the annual convention to be held here beginning July 18.

GAIN FIVE-DAY WEEK

San Pedro, Cal., June 11.—Organized painters have established the five-day week on work here. It is expected that all old work will be cleaned up within 90 days.

DRASTIC ANTI-UNION CLAUSE PASSED BY BRITISH COMMONS

London, June 11.—By a vote of 275 to 120 the House of Commons passed clause 2 of the trades union bill which makes it illegal for a union to expel a member who refuses to join a strike that has been held "illegal" by the court.

Where the clause is violated the worker may sue for damages and "compensation." This opens a wide road for onslaught on union funds by Conservative magistrates.

Debate on the clause was marked by bitterness against strikebreakers by members of the Labor party. Attacks on the government for proposing the bill were overlooked in the barrage against workers who refuse to join the movement for improving conditions.

"Blackleg" was the mildest term used. One Labor member said the bill was a counterpart to the Victoria Cross (awarded by the government for deeds of heroism) and offered the following design for it: An inscription on the top: "The blackleg's reward," and underneath, "To him who deserts his comrades in the day of their struggle." Emblem in the center, a pig and a pipe.

"That will show who is responsible for it," said the Labor member, with an evident allusion to Prime Minister Baldwin's fondness for pipe smoking.

The trade unionists are arousing the country against the bill, although the Conservatives' huge majority assures its passage. At one recent week-end more than 300 meetings were held throughout England and Scotland.

At one of these gatherings Secretary Citrine of the British Trade Union Congress said: "It is one thing to pass the bill, but another to make it operative."

WORKERS RESENTFUL AT LOSS OF RIGHTS

Atlantic City, June 11.—"Employes must be accorded rights guaranteed every American citizen," said William Green, president of the A. F. of L., in an address to the convention of the National Electric Light Association.

"Pride in craftsmanship and in service is fostered through the worker's exercise of his legal and moral right to associate with fellow workers in an organization of his creation," continued Mr. Green.

"Resentment exists when workers are treated unfairly by management. Frank discussion and common understanding are necessary for industrial cooperation."

President Green said that the spirit of mutual interest can be exemplified in the electric power industry to as great or a greater degree than in any other industry.

"In the transportation lines, where electric power is being used more and more," he said, "and in the public utilities men and management come in close contact with each other and together with the general public and the public interest. Many problems of public character arise which seriously affect the economic interests of all concerned and the social interests of the working people."

LABOR GETS WAVE LENGTH FOR BROADCAST STATION

Chicago, June 11.—Broadcast station WCFL, owned and operated by the Chicago Federation of Labor, has been awarded an excellent wave length and plenty of power by the Federal Radio Commission. The allocation of wave lengths is effective June 15 and after a 60-day test will be made permanent unless unexpected difficulties arise. The new wave length is but one point lower on the tuning dial than wave length 491.5 meters which WCFL has been using. The change will cause no inconvenience to listeners.

MINERS KEEP HOMES; WILL NOT BE OUSTED

Pittsburgh, June 11.—The Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Corporation lost its fight to oust union miners from company houses. The Allegheny County Court approved bonds filed by the United Mine Workers to permit an appeal of eight eviction suits to the State Supreme Court. This indefinitely postpones the evictions of more than 1,000 families.

The company is operating on the anti-union basis and claimed it needed the houses for strikebreakers.

W. G. RICHARDS DIES

Columbus, Ohio, June 11.—William G. ("Bill") Richards, veteran trade unionist and lifelong member of the United Mine Workers, died in this city after a long illness of several months. He was a delegate to the first convention of the United Mine Workers in 1890 and at one time was vice president of the Ohio district.

EMPLOYERS CONTROL COMPANY "UNIONS"

San Bernardino, Cal., June 11.—If the Southern Pacific Railroad's company "union" belongs to employes, why does the company force every employe to sign an application blank for admission to the "union," and why does the company collect the "union" dues?

These questions are asked employes in a circular that is distributed by the A. F. of L. Railway Employes' Department.

WANT STATE COMPENSATION

Austin, Texas, June 11.—Organized labor in this State is discussing a State-controlled workmen's compensation act. At the recent convention of the Texas State Federation of Labor officers were authorized to inquire into the advisability of a referendum petition to change the Texas constitution so that the State can finance this compensation system.

CITY MANAGER IS CZAR

West Palm Beach, Fla., June 11.—City Manager Parker stopped the summer vacations of members of the fire department, who are on duty every hour of the 24.

According to the city charter, acts by the city manager cannot be reviewed by the city commissioners.

AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIAL BOARD WELCOMED BY UNION OFFICIALS

Washington, June 11.—The Australian Industrial Delegation to this country was welcomed by President Green and other A. F. of L. officials and resident officials of national and international unions at A. F. of L. building.

The commission includes representatives of trade unions and employers' organizations. The former are E. J. Graysnider, secretary Australian Workers' Union, the largest labor organization in that commonwealth; John C. Valentine, secretary Queensland division Australian Locomotive Engineers' Union; C. J. Munden, secretary South Australian Engineers' and Metal Trades' Federation; Archibald McInnes, South Australias Boilermakers' Union.

Answering the query if organized labor in the United States is on the decline, President Green and Secretary Morrison showed that trade unionism is increasing, both in spirit and numerically. "We have passed from the abnormal war period and are now enjoying a substantial growth," said President Green.

A. F. of L. Vice President Noonan reviewed the so-called "American plan" movement, which was launched following the demobilization of 4,000,000 soldiers. It was hoped, said Mr. Noonan, that the scheme for which would be so wild that the unions' lines would collapse.

The labor visitors are interested in the nation-wide organization of the A. F. of L. and the manner in which city central and State bodies are linked up with headquarters in Washington. In Australia, they say, there is no federation of labor organizations or city central bodies, as in this country. Each State and city central body is an independent unit. The workers are now considering plans to maintain closer relations. The reason for present conditions is the immense territory of the Australian Comonwealth and the vast spaces between communities. These distances can be understood when it is known that Australia, with a population of 6,000,000 persons, is as large as the United States with 125,000,000.

The language test for immigrants is rigidly applied to Asiatics because of Australia's relative close proximity to the Far East. There is no quota law, as in the United States.

LANDIS AWARD SLIPS; FRIENDS ARE WORRIED

Chicago, June 11.—The Citizens' Committee to Enforce the Landis Award are worried at the increasing number of building contractors who have repudiated the anti-union shop views of Federal Judge Landis.

In a booklet describing its activity, the committee expresses disappointment because national contractors are again operating on a union basis.

The committee was formed several years ago at a meeting of civic bodies which agreed to support the Landis Award and fasten the anti-union shop on the local building industry.

A determined effort is being made, the booklet states, to nullify the committee's work. Prospective builders are asked to insist on Landis award conditions. The difficulty in carrying out this program is that skilled craftsmen are in the unions and refuse to work under conditions unsatisfactory to them.

The committee has raised more than $3,000,000 to enforce its low-wage program.

PRIVATE PROPERTY GIVEN SOCIAL STATUS

Washington, June 11.—"Less government in business" received another jolt when the United States Supreme Court ruled that freight cars owned by private companies are subject to orders of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The court sustained a ruling by the commission that these privately owned cars shall be counted in the pro rata assignments of cars to coal mines in times of coal shortage.

CIVIL PENSION PLAN TO BE INVESTIGATED

San Francisco, June 11.—Governor Young's approval of a bill providing for a commission to investigate pensions for State civil service employes has ended a long fight.

For more than a decade pension advocates have urged the plan that future action may be based on facts.

MINERS' ATTORNEY DEAD

Springfield, Ill., June 11.—Judge Angus W. Kerr, chief counsel for Illinois district, United Mine Workers, died in a local hospital following an operation for appendicitis. He was 55 years of age.

WANT FIVE-DAY WEEK

Portland, Ore., June 11.—Bricklayers suspended work to enforce a five-day week and raise wages $1 a day.

COAL MINERS PRESENT SOLID LINES; CONTRACT BREAKERS LOSING MONEY

Indianapolis, June 11.—The 10-weeks' strike of bituminous miners has not lessened the solidarity of these workers. The strike started on April 1 following the refusal of coal owners to make any suggestion for a renewal of contracts except on the open-shop standards in the non-union fields in Kentucky and West Virginia.

The unionists are waging an especially courageous fight in the Pittsburgh district against the Pittsburgh Coal Company and the Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Corporation. Both concerns broke an agreement with the union. Pittsburgh Coal is stimulating production at its 15 of its 54 mines and has marked off large losses during the past two years because of its open-shop policy. Losses for April and May of this year are proportionately greater than the first three months of 1926 when the loss was $856,000.

The Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Corporation is facing similar conditions, despite the importation of thousands of strikebreakers from southern cities.

In the West Virginia fields the disadvantages of anti-unionism is apparent even to the stoutest champion of this system among business men. Miners are employed two and three days a week at a living wage that makes it impossible to sustain prosperity in the various mining communities. Unrest is widespread among these workers. In a recent issue of Black Diamond, this spokesman for the coal owners, said:

"In eastern Kentucky several mines have been closed by strikes of miners who are demanding recognition of the union and the reinstatement of the union wage scale. It is said that more than 2,000 men are out in the Harlan field alone. While this district is disturbed with chronic unrest, the efforts of union leaders for several weeks have been intensified and, it is said, with considerable success."

President Lewis states that 33 per cent of Indiana miners are working under union conditions and 3,132 are working in Illinois.

Bituminous coal production is now 3,000,000 tons weekly less than consumption and the lake and retail trade is beginning to demand coal.

WASTE IN INDUSTRY COSTLY TO WORKERS

Washington, June 11.—Organized labor's interest in the elimination of waste in industry is discussed at length by President Green, editor American Federationist, in June issue.

The recent conference on this subject, held in Philadelphia under the auspices of organized labor, has attracted world-wide interest, and inquiries have been received from all parts of the United States, Great Britain, Europe and Australia.

Commenting on the conference, President Green said:

"Initial responsibility for efforts to reduce unnecessary waste rests upon management, while unions contribute to the development of plans and inspiring plans into production procedure. In the last analysis elimination of waste is the development of craftsmanship—it is the shaping of knowledge and experience to bear upon how to do each part of the production undertaking. Machine production has replaced hand craftsmanship without developing a craftsmanship for machine production. The immediate problem is reciprocal development of craftsmanship of management and craftsmanship of workers, which implies a common purpose and cooperation in realizing it. Here it is obvious that the union renders an indispensable service by making possible cooperation and good will for the undertaking."

"ADVISOR" TO PUBLIC URGES HIGHER RATES

New York, June 11.—Ivy Lee, former publicity agent for Rockefeller's Colorado Fuel and Iron Company and for the Pennsylvania Railroad, is paid $12,000 a year by the Interborough Rapid Transit Company "as advisor of public relations."

Mr. Lee's duty consists of educating the public to the need for higher car fares. During the strike of coal miners against the Colorado company, 14 years ago, Mr. Lee prepared pamphlets in the East explaining the company's anti-union position.

BEN LINDSEY LOSES

Washington, June 11.—Ben B. Lindsey, well-known juvenile judge of Denver, lost his fight in the United States Supreme Court for a review of an election in which he was defeated in November, 1924. Lindsey was credited with a victory by the unsuccessful, but his opponent threw the case into the courts. Lindsey claimed he was prevented from presenting evidence in the Colorado Supreme Court. The United States Supreme Court refused to change the Colorado court decision.

URGE SHORTER WORK WEEK

Edmonton, Alberta, June 11.—Shop men employed on the Canadian Northern Railroad are urging a conference of all railway unions in Canada to obtain the 44-hour week and increased wages.

Increased efficiency is resulting in less employment.